

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 20119 111854Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CU-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 20119

BELGRADE FOR CSCE DEL

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE NATO FR
SUBJ: FRENCH THREAT TO NATO CSCE PREPARATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 160117; (B) USNATO 06599

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PARIS 20119 111854Z

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR HARTMAN UNDERLINED TO LABOULAYE
THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE CSCE
CONSULTATIONS IN NATO. LABOULAYE SUGGESTED THAT MUCH OF
THE DIFFICULTY IN BRUSSELS (REFTELS) IS DUE TO FRENCH
CONCERN THAT THE NINE HAD NOT SUFFICIENTLY COORDINATED
AN EC POSITION. WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, HE EXPRESSED
THE HOPE THE MATTER WILL BE BACK ON THE RAILS

SOON. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS INITIAL MEETING WITH QUAI DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS LABOULAYE JULY 11, AMBASSADOR HARTMAN RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE FRENCH REGARDING CSCE PREPARATIONS IN NATO. HE RECALLED THE GOOD COOPERATION DURING THE PERIOD PRIOR TO HELSINKI. HE EMPHASIZED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING GOOD CONTACTS AND EFFECTIVE CONSULTATIONS IN NATO, AS WELL AS IN BELGRADE, DURING THE PRESENT EXERCISE. HARTMAN SAID THAT WE WERE NOT SEEKING A RIGID BLOC-TO-BLOC APPROACH, BUT CSCE IS SO BASIC FOR EAST/WEST RELATIONS THAT THE ALLIES MUST ENGAGE IN GENUINE CONSULTATIONS IN NATO.

3. LABOULAYE SUGGESTED THAT MUCH OF THE DIFFICULTY IS DUE TO A FRENCH FEAR THAT THE NINE WILL BE BY-PASSED AND THEIR EFFORTS OVERTAKEN BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN SLOW WITH INTERNAL COORDINATION. HE INDICATED THAT A CONTRIBUTING CAUSE WAS THE CIRCUMSTANCE THAT THE US DELEGATION IN BELGRADE SUPPORTED THE POSITION OF THE NINE ON THE AGENDA SO ACTIVELY THAT IT BECAME A PROPOSAL OF THE "TEN" WITH THE US OUT IN FRONT. THIS RAISED OLD FEARS IN SOME FRENCH CIRCLES. LABOULAYE ADDED THAT THE NINE ARE IN A BIT OF DISARRAY BECAUSE THEY HAD TRIED (WRONGLY IN HIS VIEW) TO GET PLACE CARDS FOR THE COMMUNITY IN BELGRADE
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PAGE 03 PARIS 20119 111854Z

AND FAILED. LABOULAYE EMPHASIZED NEVERTHELESS THAT THE FRENCH CONSIDER THERE IS EXCELLENT COOPERATION AND PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THEIR DELEGATION AND THE US DELEGATION IN BELGRADE. HE CONCLUDED WITH THE HOPE THAT MATTERS WILL SOON BE STRAIGHTENED OUT IN NATO BUT GAVE NO DETAILS.

4. AMBASSADOR HARTMAN CONCLUDED BY RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NINE IN CSCE PREPARATIONS; STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT NATO CONSULTATIONS MUST PROCEED EFFECTIVELY; AND REMINDED LABOULAYE THAT CERTAIN MATTERS ARE APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION AMONG THE FIFTEEN IN THE FIRST INSTANCE; E.G. CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES.
HARTMAN

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